must be eradicated wherever it exists. Government are firmly resolved to take alJ other necessary steps that are required to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Repatriation of Indian Fishermen Languishing in Pakistani Jails

508. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRJGIREDDY.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen in Pakistani Jails as on the 31 st October, 2001;

(b) the number of Pakistani fishermen in the Indian Jails;

(c) the number of fishermen repatriated by Pakistan and India before the Agra Summit; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to get the Indian fishermen released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per available information there were 48 Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails as on 31 st October, 2001.

(b) The release and repatriation of 202 Pakistani fishermen detained in India is in process.

(c) India released 160 Pakistani fishermen and Pakistan released 159 Indian fishermen in April and June, 2001 respectively.

(d) Government have taken up with the Government of Pakistan the issue of release and repatriation of 48 Indian fishermen arrested by Pakistan on 30.10.2001. Government of Pakistan is, however, yet to acknowledge their arrest.

Indo-Bangladesh Relations

509. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's expectation with the installation of new Government in Bangladesh in respect of Indo-Bangladesh relation, security of the minority community-, illegal migration of Bangladeshis into the country

besides other related issues;

(b) whether Government have taken any initiative for betterment of Indo-Bangladesh relations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI J ASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Indo-Bangladesh relations are founded on strong links of geography, history and culture. Government's commitment to maintaining frindly relations with all its neighbours, including Bangladesh, and to resolving all issues through dialogue and consultations was reiterated during the visit to Dhaka of Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister as his Special Envoy on 26-27 October, 2001. The Government, of Bangladesh have expressed their keen desire to work with India for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the countries.

British Prime Minister's India Visit

510. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERN AL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Prime Minister has, recently, visited India and held discussions on several issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the agreements signed between both the countries " during the visit; and

(d) the extent to which Britain have decided to extend assistance to India to combat terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister Tony Blair visited India on 6th October 2001 for discussions with Prime Minister on the prevailing international situation particularly in the context of the international coalition against terrorism and the launch of military action in Afghanistan. The need for a broad-based political structure in Afghanistan in the post-Taliban scenario was discussed.

(c) No agreements were signed during the visit.

(d) India and the UK have been working closely to counter international terrorism, especially under the framework of a Joint Working Group on International Terrorism and Drug Trafficking. Earlier this year, the UK proscribed